by 2006. Developing countries will continue to benefit from the provisions on marketing and transport subsidies on agricultural exports for five years after the end date for elimination of all forms of export subsidies. On trade-distorting domestic support, the three heaviest subsidizers will attract the steepest cuts also in the reductions in their AMS, while the developing countries without agricultural market subsidy will be exempt from any cuts on *de minimis* and on overall trade-distorting support levels. In respect of market access commitments, it has been agreed that a four-band tariff reduction formula will be developed. In order to address their food security, livelihood and rural development needs, developing countries to have the flexibility to self-designate an appropriate number of Special Products, whose treatment will be more flexible. In order to safeguard farmers in developing countries against import surges and adverse global price movements, import quantity and price triggers have been agreed as the core structural elements of the Special Safeguard Mechanism.

Affairs of CMC

1654. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board, in the month of February, 2006, asked the Cardamom Marketing Corporation (CMC) at Vadanmedu, Idukki district, Kerala not to conduct any Cardamom auction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CMC is in serious financial crisis due to mismanagement and diversion of funds to other areas;

(d) if so, the details of action taken including those to protect investors investment in CMC;

(e) the financial dues of CMC to banks and non-banking financial institutions as on date; and

(f) the steps taken to proceed with Cardamom auction as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has suspended the license of Cardamom Marketing Corporation and has issued a Show Cause Notice for cancellation of the same for violation of the conditions of the license.

(c) The Government is not aware.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The dues claimed by the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank on Cardamom Marketing Corporation is Rs. 3.02 crore. No other information about financial dues on Cardamom Marketing Corporation is available.

(f) Cardamom auctions are being conducted everyday of the week in the cardamom growing areas of Southern Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Discussions during visit of UK Commerce Minister

1655. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Minister of Commerce, UK visited India;

(b) if so, the issues discussed between the two countries;

(c) whether India raised the issue of definition of 'whisky' by UK because when Indian whisky is exported to UK, it is termed as rum or gin and not as whisky and thereby creating a lot of problems for the exporters; and

(d) the details of the non-tariff barriers faced by the Indian exporters in UK market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Minister of State for Trade of the United Kingdom (UK), Mr. Ian Pearson, MP, visited India in January 2006.

(b) and (c) Both the Ministers discussed the need to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between India and the United Kingdom (UK) especially in the services sector. Issues pertaining to classification of Indian whisky as whisky for market access purpose and market access of alcoholic beverages to India were also referred to.

(d) The non-tariff barriers faced by the Indian exporters in UK market *inter-alia* include administrative and procedural matters, various higher Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) in the food/agricultural products, issues etc. These are highlighted in bilateral discussions with the Government of UK and also the European Commission at various levels.